# LOS RANCHOS

JOINT PUBLICATION

OF THE

## LAFAYETTE - ORINDA - MORAGA

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Vol. 1 - No. 6 April 1974 Box 103, Moraga, CA 94556


### RANCHOS OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Miss Ruth Galindo, great, great granddaughter of Salvio Pacheco, founder of Concord, traced the early land grants and the founding of Concord. She noted that the people of the ranchos were all close friends and often inter-related.

She recalled that Joaquin Moraga married Maria Francisca Castro of the Rancho San Pablo. The granddaughter of Salvio Pacheco, Librada Pacheco, married the grandson of Joaquin Moraga. The Moragas were also related to the Martinez and Briones families.

Three of the ranchos in the county were granted to women, the widows of Spanish soldiers. These were La Boca de la Canada del Pinole granted to Maria Manuela Valencia de Briones, La Canada del Hambre granted to Teodora Soto who remarried into the Briones family, and El Rancho de los Nueces y Bolbones granted to Juana Sanchez y Pacheco, aunt of Salvio Pacheco. This last rancho was managed by her nephew, Ygnacio Cebrian and is now the area of Ygnacio Valley.

Salvio Pacheco was born in 1793 at the presidio at Monterey, the grandson of a member of the Anza party of colonists. He was a member of the mission guard at San Jose, and later retired and entered the government, serving as alcalde, treasurer, etc., at the pueblo of San Jose.

In 1828 he petitioned for a grant of land at Monte del Diablo, and in 1834 he received four leagues, or 17,921 acres. Miss Galindo explained that "monte"

### THE MORAGA CO. GENERATION ('20's & '30's) TO TELL HOW IT WAS DURING THEIR 'TEENS

"Sure I know them," said one of the invitees to the April 11 old-timers' program at Joaquin Moraga School, "We were in high school together."

Those who said they would come to see the slides of the days when the Moraga Company ruled the land and reminisce especially about the 1930's were Al Carr, Hank Boeger, Marian Carroll, Art Fleuti, Eleanor Pimentel, John Sanders, Frank Trelut, Tom Twomey--and a few other old timers of a later vintage who would compare notes: Thelma Quinley, principal in the early '40's; Postmaster Eleanor Dickenson of the '50's; and Brother Dennis, a St. Mary's student in the early '30's.

The program will begin at 8 p.m. Members of all societies are welcome.

### CALENDAR

April: "Annual Moraga Old-Timers' Nite," Apr.11,Thurs.,Joaquin Moraga School,8 pm
May: Romeria to the Pena Adobe and Railroad museum--in Solano Co.
June: La Fiesta exhibit booth.
July: Caminata hike over the sites nearby ghost communities.
August: Merienda, this year at St.Mary's College.Architectural tour after picnic.
Sept.: Sound/Slide show of DeAnza-Moraga expedition. Part of ARBC 1976 program.
Oct.: El Aniversario, banquet commemorating our founding.
Nov.: Oct. & Nov. programs by Lafayette and Orinda Soc. Announcement later.
Dec.: La Posada perhaps to be held at the Adobe at the invitation of the family. Mexican Christmas folk ceremony.

# LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THIRD ANNUAL POT LUCK DINNER IS TUESDAY APRIL 23 FOR LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
Place: Veterans' Memorial Building, Mt. Diablo Blvd. and First Street
Time : No host social hour 6-7 P.M. Pot Luck Dinner at 7
Program: Panel Discussion -- "ALL ABOARD For A Train Ride On The Sacramento Northern Railroad."

Telephones are ringing as volunteers make final arrangements on what promises to be a lively Third Annual Pot Luck Dinner on Tues. April 23. Mrs. Jack Marchant, Chairman for the dinner, and a large committee are contacting every member of the historical society for delicious hot food, salads and desserts.

The program following dinner features long-time residents in a panel discussion on the old Sacramento Northern Railroad. Also on display will be photographs and memorabilia pertaining to the trains which once wound their way along the eastern boundary of Lafayette.

Mrs. Gary Willcuts, Program Chairman, announces the following panel of participants: Mr. Louie Stein, history buff, who will show a movie of a train trip along the Sacramento Northern; Mrs. Ned Flanders who grew up in Lafayette; Brother Dennis who went to school at St.Mary's College; Councilman Walter Costa will tell of the future use of the railroad right-of-way; Mrs. Fern Davis will be the moderator.

For more information on the Pot Luck Dinner or the program, please call Mrs. Marchant (934-8016), Mrs. Homer Schreiber (284-7538) or Mrs. Willcuts (283-0706).

## "THROUGH THE LENS" NEWEST EXHIBIT AT LANDMARKS ROOM IN LAFAYETTE.

Cameras of every age and size, some in elegant cases, plus photographic equipment and old photos are all part of the present exhibit at the LandMarks Room at the Lafayette Federal Savings and Loan Association at 3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

"We tried to create a typical photographer's studio of the early 1900s by using swag curtains, wicker chair, and a bouquet of flowers in a vase," said Mrs. Herbert Breckling, Exhibits Chairman for the historical society.

An 1892 No. 4 Ansco folding camera in its leather case, a 1902 Preemo camera with glass slides, a Kodak film developer of the early 1900's, plus an 1890 single lens folding camera on a tripod are part of this display. Camera buffs will be intrigued by an Eastman 8 x 10 camera and tripod used for stills on a motion picture set in the early 1930's.

The two small window cases hold photos in lovely gilt frames and a 1904 picture of the Golden Gate showing a clipper ship in the bay. Also included are plates for making glossy prints and a drying rack for glass plate negatives.

The historical society is most grateful to the following contributors: Mr. Jak Dzikielewski of JAK Studio and photographer of the Contra Costa Suns; Mr. Robert Bordeaux, artist, photographer and framer; Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Breen; Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Medau, and Mr. Carl Heyder.

## HISTORICAL LANDMARKS OF LAFAYETTE REPORT

"The first three buildings were part of the business district centered around Plaza Park," begins the Historical Landmarks Report which describes the Way Side Inn, The Pioneer Store and the Geils building. Ten more landmarks together with the dates, location and a brief history include: Plaza Park, Town Hall, Old Lafayette School, deodar trees on Moraga Road, Indian Village and Burial Grounds, the Daley House, Garrett Building, the cemetery, and the first house built on St. Mary's Road.

Copies of this report, researched by Mrs. Fern Davis, are on file at City Hall and in the historical file cabinet at the Lafayette Library on Moraga Road.

ROMERIA is Saturday, May 18--Our membership is invited to join the Moraga Society on their annual Romeria. Please see separate announcement in this issue of Los Ranchos.

ORINDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Cont. from page 1.
means "willow thicket" in Spanish, and not "mountain." This willow thicket was the site of an Indian burial ground. The Indians believed the flickering lights seen at night were the spirits of their ancestors, but they were probably the fireflies as reported by early residents.

The rancho was managed by Fernando, son of Salvio Pacheco, until 1846. Then Salvio moved to the rancho from San Jose and built an adobe which is still standing with the original pepper tree beside it. He gave Fernando 1000 acres on the northern portion of the rancho, and here he built an adobe. This is now used by the Horsemen's Association. Fernando was a huge man six feet tall and 400 pounds. He had a carriage specially built for him by a Concord builder.

One of the busiest roads in the county ran beside Salvio's adobe. It ran from Martinez to Pacheco to the coal mines at Nortonville. The town of Pacheco was the shipping center for the grain of the valley, and ships came up the slough to the warehouses. Silting of the slough and periodic severe floods led to the abandonment of the town. Salvio offered town lots to the businessmen in the higher location of the present-day Concord. In 1868 he laid out the town of Todos Santos, which was changed by American settlers in 1869 to Concord.

The first settlers had large grain farms of 200-600 acres. With the arrival of more settlers, the farms became smaller and were planted to orchards and vineyards. The town grew slowly until after World War II, and now has a population of 100,000. The character of the town has changed with the size, but the street signs still reflect the Spanish heritage. Someday there will be a historical park for all to enjoy.

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## ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE MAY 10.

The Annual Meeting will feature an Old Timers Night and pot luck supper on May 10. Details will be sent to our members in a separate letter closer to the date, but mark your calendars now. Anyone from the other two societies is welcome, and should write to P.O. Box 82, Orinda, 94563 to let us know. Election of three directors will be held at this meeting. Please let us know before May 1 if you have any suggestions.

## ORINDA COOPERATES WITH LOCAL SOCIETIES IN COUNTY

Our society has been active in the organization of the new county historical coordinating committee of the Contra Costa County Historical Society. Each local society will prepare a series of vignettes to be aired over radio station KWUN at their request. If anyone has an interesting historical anecdote which could be used, please contact Al de Grassi. The committee will also submit a model landmarks preservation ordinance to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration. Such an ordinance could provide a means of ensuring the preservation of historical treasures for those areas unincorporated. Concord has passed such an ordinance, and Lafayette is considering one. Our immediate concern is the presevation of the Moraga adobe, which is being offered for sale by the present owner who has always been sensitive to its historical importance.

# MORAGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM; A Sound/Slide Show of the De Anza Expedition.
This show is now available to schools and organizations for promoting an interest in this and broader aspects of the American Revolution Bicentennial of 1976. Although it contains 160 slides, its accompanying tape runs only 22 minutes. The projectionist should have a stereo tape recorder, and preferably an automatic slide projector. Phone: 376-4411, Ext. 15.

In preparation for the OPENING OF THE VALLE VISTA TRAIL TO LAS TRAMPAS PARK the Society has been invited by EBR Parks to contribute historical information regarding the area as well as that of Redwood community for a hikers' pamphlet and for site identification signs.

In a recent letter Horace Walpole Carpentier's niece described him as of "Puritan stock: ministers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, blacksmiths, surveyors, etc., active, working, successful men of God-fearing self-respect." She has offered to lend us his complete family genealogy (a letter of his minister grandfather is on p. 109).

To promote an interest in local history the Board has presented membership cards to teachers of California history in the schools of the Moraga area. They are---Virginia Abplanalp, Sarah Dandridge, Henry Davis, Betty Edlund, Miriam Flora, Murray Grant, Barry Hart, George Hunrick, Robert Johnson, Peggy Kallander, (Eleanor Lathan since 1967), Ray Lippincott, Don McKay, Fred Miller, Julia Nakamura, Linda Otley, George Park, Barbara Rust, Willard Schulte, Larry Schutten, Peggy Sheeks, Bonnie Smith, Ruth Smith, Sharon Vogt, Robert White.

HISTORIC SITE LOCATION AND IDENTIFICATION Buried historic artifact treasure hunt. Bill Meder would like to assist you and join in the fun of discovery with his electronic metal detectors. He is available on some week days also. Call: 376-6766.

LOS RANCHOS
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Moraga, Ca 94556
Permit No.14

The Moraga Company Generation

OLD TIMERS' NIGHT

Thurs., Apr. 11 8 P. M.

Joaquin Moraga Auditorium

Canyon Road & Camino Pablo

TIME VALUE

3RD ANNUAL POT-LUCK DINNER

and

Election of '73-74 Officers

of

Lafayette Historical Society
Tues., Apr.23 8p.m.
VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING
First St. & Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Broadhead
965 Yorkshire Court
Lafayette, CA 94549

# HISTORICAL SOCIETIES' SPRING ROMERIA

## 1974

Among the ranchero customs adopted by numerous historical societies is that of the spring "romeria."

Although this was a "picnic" lasting several days while the ranchero's family visited its many relatives, today it is frequently shortened to a one-day journey and is limited to visiting historical sites. Thus the state society--and those of Lamorinda--have sponsored this annual outing for their members.

This year there will be a jointly sponsored romeria, which although it will take the picnickers into two adjacent counties, will stop at historic sites in Solano County. Because Benicia was visited last year, the tour will include only the county's eastern centers of historical interest.

Among the places to be visited--or pointed out--will be the hotel of the 1850's in Cordelia, the old stone mansion at the Green Valley County Club, the old Martin home across the street from the Sonoma Junior College, and the nearby reputed grave of Chief Solano.

Back on the southern side of the Freeway will be the Chief's statue in front of the Fairfield county court house, the old town square of Suisun.

Lunch will be had at the Peña (PAIN-ya) Adobe picnic grounds. Afterward we will tour the Adobe, the nearby Indian cemetery, and the pioneers' grave site (which will have been dedicated by E Clampus Vitus historians in late April).

More recent institutions will be visited or viewed in the afternoon: the Adult Authority medical facility at Vacaville, the U. S. Air Force Base at Travis, and the railroad museum at Rio Vista.

At the museum maps and photos of interest to Lamorindan visitors may be viewed: the California and Nevada Railroad of Orinda; the Oakland, Antioch and Eastern, of Moraga and Lafayette. An opportunity to ride antiquated rolling stock, hopefully of local vintage, will also be provided.

The return trip will leave the port of Rio Vista, crossing the Sacramento River and the islands between it and the San Joaquin where we will enter Contra Costa County via the Antioch Bridge.

DATE: Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
LOCATION: Parking lot to left of entrance road, St. Mary's College
BRING: Lunch, beverages, in addition to those provided.
PROVIDED: Soft drinks, table wine, transportation by air-conditioned touring bus.
COST: Children: $1.50; adults, $4.00
RESERVATIONS (Deadline: May 8): Mrs. Eleanor Vaughn, 1104 Sanders Dr., Moraga 94556 (After-deadline inquiries as to availability of seating: 376-0889.)

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Please reserve:_____seats for adults; _____for children. MAIL

I am enclosing:_____to cover the cost of the bus seats requested above.

I will pick up the tickets at the bus on Sat., May 18.

_____

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